



Docket No.: 205721US0CONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Toshio HIRANO et al.

SERIAL NO: 09/828,217

FILED: APRIL 1, 2001

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: EXAMINER: MERTZ

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1646

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FOR: METHOD OF IDENTIFYING CELLS EXPRESSING A PROTEIN
HAVING PRE-B CELL GROWTH-SUPPORTING ABILITY

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D.G.J
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AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Official Action dated October 1, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. For convenience, all of the pending claims are reproduced below.

B¹
--8. (Amended) An antibody which recognizes a polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 and has pre-B cell growth-supporting ability.

9. The antibody of Claim 8, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.